

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUBLIN 02659 240932Z

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SOE-02 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 DOE-15 H-02 INR-10 INT-05
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01 PM-05 ICA-20 OES-09
SP-02 SS-15 STR-07 TRSE-00 ACDA-12 NRC-07 PA-02
SAS-02 /151 W

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FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0921

UNCLAS DUBLIN 02659

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y TEXT (PARA 4)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, BEXP, EI

SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO IRISH NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
GATHERS STEAM.

REF: (A) DUBLIN 2397; (B) DUBLIN 2171

1. A PROTEST RALLY WAS HELD AUGUST 18-20 IN
CARNSORE POINT, CO. WEXFORD, THE MOST LIKELY
SITE FOR IRELAND'S PROPOSED FIRST NUCLEAR POWER
PLANT (SEE REFTELS). IT IS ESTIMATED THAT MORE
THAN 5,000 PEOPLE SPENT THE RAINY WEEKEND AT
THE PROTEST SITE, WITH THE NUMBERS INCREASING
TO 10,000 ON AUGUST 20. THIS IS THE FIRST
LARGE SCALE PUBLIC PROTEST AGAINST THE LYNCH
GOVERNMENT'S ADVOCACY OF THE PROJECT.

2. THE EVENT WAS ORGANIZED BY AN AD HOC COMMITTEE
OF VARIOUS ORGANIZATIONS (BUT ESSENTIALLY FROM
FRIENDS OF THE EARTH AND THE NUCLEAR SAFETY
ASSOCIATION) KNOWN AS "THE ANTI-NUCLEAR POWER
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SHOW COLLECTIVE." REPRESENTATIVES OF BRITISH,
FRENCH, GERMAN, ITALIAN, AND AMERICAN ANTI-
NUCLEAR MOVEMENTS WERE AMONG THE PARTICIPANTS.
THE FORMATION OF A NATION-WIDE, COUNTY-BASED
MOVEMENT TO OPPOSE THE NUCLEAR SCHEME WAS ANNOUNCED,
AS WERE PLANS FOR A SECOND MASS RALLY, AN INDOOR
EVENT TO BE HELD IN DUBLIN IN ABOUT 3 MONTHS.

3. AMONG THE PUBLIC FIGURES ASSOCIATED WITH THE RALLY AND THE ANTI-NUCLEAR MOVEMENT IN GENERAL ARE NOBEL PRIZE WINNER SEAN MCBRIDE, LABOR LEADER JOHN CARROLL, ENVIRONMENTALIST SEAN DUBLIN-BAY LOFTUS AND DAVID NELLIGAN, PRESIDENT OF THE TINY SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY.

4. ON AUGUST 21, THE DAY FOLLOWING THE RALLY, OPPOSITION FINE GAELE SPOKESMAN ON INDUSTRY, COMMERCE AND ENERGY, JOHN KELLY, CALLED FOR A PUBLIC INQUIRY INTO THE BUILDING OF THE NUCLEAR POWER STATION. HE SAID THAT THE FINE GAELE/LABOR COALITION GOVERNMENT HAD FIRST AUTHORIZED THE PLANNING OF THE REACTOR AND THEREFORE FINE GAELE "IS NOT AND COULD NOT BE AGAINST NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT ON PRINCIPLE." HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT "WE THINK AN INDEPENDENT PUBLIC INQUIRY WITH LIBERTY FOR ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUPS TO CROSS-EXAMINE THE DEPARTMENT AND THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY BOARD SHOULD BE HELD." THE GOVERNMENT HAS THUS FAR RESISTED CALLS FOR FURTHER INQUIRY, BUT INDICATED IN ITS RECENTLY PUBLISHED DISCUSSION DOCUMENT, "SOME CURRENT ENERGY PROBLEMS AND OPTIONS," THAT IF APPROVAL IN PRINCIPLE IS GRANTED THE PROJECT WILL BE "FULLY REASSESSED IN TWO YEARS TIME..."

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BEFORE ANY DEFINITE CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS... ARE MADE." SHANNON

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NNN

Message Attributes

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